

TOWN OF MANSFIELD
Solid Waste Advisory Committee
Minutes of the Meeting
January 12, 2012

Present: Knox (chair), Ames, Smith, Milius, Walton (staff), Hultgren (staff)

The meeting was called to order at 7:40 p.m.

The minutes of the November 10, 2011 meeting were accepted by Ames/Smith.

The committee compared the Storrs Center streetscape recycling/trash containers that have been approved for use to an alternative style that is open framed. The committee recommended that the selection of recycling containers is reconsidered as the open frame style tends to result in a cleaner sort. A memo will be sent to the Macon Toledano, in charge of the Storrs Center streetscape design, suggesting that the Downtown Partnership planning and design committee reconsider their decision.

Hultgren reported that pets will be allowed in Storrs Center housing units. Staff will make Macon Toledano aware that provisions for pet waste disposal should be a consideration.

Walton stated that the single-family trash collection contract ends Sept 30, 2012, at which time the Town will go out to bid. The committee discussed whether the Town should bid for automated trash service. Staff will put together a sheet comparing features of automated and non-automated service for further discussion.

Walton stated that a resident asked for the committee's review of the policy allowing cardboard boxes to hold recyclables. Because boxes are left at the curb after they are emptied, they tend to blow around and create litter. Members concluded that it was not enough of an issue to prohibit boxes from being used as holding containers for recyclables.

A mattress product stewardship bill will be raised this legislative session. Like both the electronics and paint laws that passed recently, a mattress product stewardship law would relieve municipalities of the cost of mattress disposal. Municipalities would be responsible for keeping them separate from other bulky waste. The drafters of the proposed legislation have asked if the Town will adopt a resolution supporting mattress product stewardship. The committee recommended that staff draft a resolution in support of mattress product stewardship to present to Town Council. Walton also added that a mattress recycler is looking to set up a facility in Hartford.

A complaint was recently received about one of the swap shop volunteers being rude to residents and taking items from the swap shop before closing time. As this is not the first complaint about the volunteer's conduct, a warning letter was sent to her. The current policy states that volunteers should wait until closing time before taking items home from the swap shop. There was some discussion about whether volunteers should be entitled to first dibs on swap shop items.

Walton reported that the municipality has joined the State Electronics Challenge. This year's goals are to adopt a policy to purchase Electronic Product Environmental Assessment Tool (EPEAT) certified equipment and to use only third party certified electronics recyclers. By doing so, the Town will be eligible to apply for an award. Another goal could be to change the defaults on all municipal computers and printers to two-sided copies and require the purchase of recycled content paper.

In February, Milius and Walton will be starting a middle school club called “The Great Food Journey” that will focus on the school garden, composting, access to local food and food distribution.

Walton will be attending a meeting with multi-family property managers on January 18, 2012 where the focus will be on strategies to boost recycling at apartments. This discussion was prompted by a citation that was issued to Carriage House Apartments in November.

Walton stated that she has been unable to reach the Eastbrook Mall about a Mall-sponsored paper shredding event. It was suggested that staff contact Staples to see if they might sponsor a paper shredding event.

The Director of Finance told Walton that when the Town begins accepting credit cards, possibly early this year, the transfer station will be the first location to use them. A prototype of a transfer station punch card was circulated.

Knox reported that CVS is selling green bag tags for \$1 to encourage bag reuse. She requested that this information is listed in the next quarter trash bill inserts. Hultgren stated that BIG Y in Tolland has a parking lot sign “Don’t forget your bags” to prompt shoppers to bring reusable bags. He will bring a picture of it to the next meeting.

Walton will re-send the 2012 meeting schedule to members. The next meeting is scheduled for March 1, 2012.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:08 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Virginia Walton
Recycling/Refuse Coordinator